

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20 EB-11 FEAE-00 ARAE-00 SWF-02

AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 OPIC-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

XMB-07 SIL-01 LAB-06 NEA-14 FRB-03 INT-08 L-03 H-03

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TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJ: LOCAL POLITICAL REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH AND
TO SECRETARY SIMON'S REMARKS ON OIL PRICES

1. REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S SEPTEMBER 18 UN SPEECH AND
SECRETARY SIMON'S REMARKS OF THE SAME DATE ON OIL PRICES HAS BEEN
UNIFORMLY ADVERSE FROM ALL MAJOR VENEZUELAN POLITICAL PARTIES.
AD PETROLEUM SPOKESMAN AND DEPUTY ARTURO HERNANDEZ GRISANTI
ATTACKED US EFFORTS TO UNITE THE CONSUMING NATIONS AGAINST
INCREASES IN PETROLEUM PRICES AND SAID THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WILL
STRENGTHEN OPEC. COPEI SECRETARY GENERAL AND SENATOR PEDRO
PABLO AGUILAR BITTERLY CRITICIZED THE POSSIBILITY OF FOOD BEING USED
AS A POLITICAL WEAPON AND WARNED THAT THE OPEC COUNTRIES COULD
RETALIATE. MAS DEPUTY JOSE VICENTE RANGEL CALLED THE PRESIDENT'S
AND SECRETARY SIMON'S STATEMENTS "THREATS," AND SAID VENEZUELA'S
BEST COURSE IS IMMEDIATE NATIONALIZATION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY. MEP
SECRETARY GENERAL JESUS PAZ GALARRAGA ALSO TERMED THE PRESIDENT'S
AND SIMON'S STATEMENTS "THREATS" AND SUGGESTED THE US IS WORRIED
THAT THE OPEC COUNTRIES WILL BECOME RULED BY "REVOLUTIONARY AND
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POPULAR GOVERNMENTS" WHICH WILL NATIONALIZE THEIR OIL INDUSTRIES

AND "GENERATE THE DECISIVE CRISIS OF WORLD CAPITALISM." URD SECRETARY GENERAL RAMON TENORIO SIFONTES SAID THE PRESIDENT "HAD ACTED LIKE A BAD NEIGHBOR BY CRITICIZING AND THREATENING IN THE UN THE OPEC COUNTRIES." MIR DEPUTY ROMULO HENRIQUEZ SAID PRESIDENT FORD'S PURPOSE IS TO DIVIDE THE OPEC COUNTRIES.

2. DEPARTING FOR MEXICO SEPTEMBER 19 FONMINISTER SCHACHT TOLD A REPORTER AT THE AIRPORT THAT VENEZUELA AND THE OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES "HAVE A PERFECT RIGHT TO TAKE ALL MEASURES THEY DEEM SUITABLE TO THEIR INTERESTS." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THE US IS FACING SIMPLY-- AND SO IT MUST BE REGARDED, IN MY OPINION--A NEW POSITION TAKEN BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH WE REGARD AS JUST AND REASONABLE. ALL THIS WILL NECESSARILY LEAD TO A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER SHORTLY... THIS WILL BE THE ONLY WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT BY THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE."

3. PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF PETROLEUM WORKERS (FEDEPETROL), CARLOS PINERUA, ANNOUNCED THAT VENEZUELA WILL CONVOKE A WORLD CONFERENCE OF PETROLEUM WORKERS IN CARACAS TO CONFRONT THREATS BY THE UNITED STATES. REFERRING TO SECRETARY SIMON'S STATEMENT THAT THE "US IS OBLIGED TO CHANGE ITS POLICY TOWARD ARAB AND OTHER PRODUCERS IN ORDER TO HAVE THEM REDUCE THEIR PRICES," PINERUA EMPHASIZED THAT THE "PETROLEUM WORKERS OF VENEZUELA ARE GOING TO SUPPORT THE NATIONALISTIC POSITION OF OUR GOVERNMENT, AND IN THIS REGARD THEY DO NOT ACCEPT UNITED STATES THREATS AGAINST THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES." HE STATED THAT VENEZUELA IS "MAKING CONTACT" WITH PETROLEUM UNION REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA IN ORDER TO CONFIRM THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS.

4. REACTION OF ECONOMIC LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.
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